

Nature Connections

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • November/December 2014



Season of Plenty



looking forward to deer season

For many area residents, November is synonymous with deer hunting. The pursuit of whitetails kicked off with the opening of archery season for deer and turkey on September 15. However, the state's November portion of the firearms deer season—which this year is November 15 to 25—is the peak event on most people's deer hunting schedule. There are several reasons why this 11-day period is so popular.

For starters, it's a tradition for many. In some cases, people have gathered with friends or family for decades. Deer season provides an opportunity to get together and catch up on family happenings or reminisce about past hunts in addition to focusing on current hunts. It's also an opportunity to get out when it's a great time to be outdoors. The ticks and chiggers that nagged us all summer are fewer. Disappearing foliage makes it easier to see wildlife and natural features that often get missed during warmer, leafier times of year. Deer hunting provides people with a challenging activity that has a tasty reward. Besides pleasing the palate, if properly prepared, venison also tends to be healthier than other types of domestically-raised meat (beef, pork, etc.), because it's leaner. On top of everything else, deer hunting provides a huge boost to Missouri's economy. Hundreds of businesses in communities throughout the state depend on the \$1 billion economic impact that deer hunting has on the state.

Probably the biggest statewide change for this year's hunters is that the number of Firearms Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits hunters can fill has changed in some counties. In previous years, an unlimited number of antlerless permits could be filled in some counties. This year, in addition to the any-deer permit you get when you purchase a firearms deer permit, the highest number of antlerless permits you can purchase in select counties is two. That option is only available in some areas (Greene County being one of them). In a number of other counties, hunters can purchase only one additional antlerless permit and in some counties, hunters can purchase no additional antlerless permits. Check the map on page 7 of the *2014 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet to see what privileges your favorite hunting area offers. These booklets are free at all Missouri Department of Conservation offices and any location that sells hunting permits.

Missouri Department of Conservation personnel across the state are still on the watch for chronic wasting disease—CWD for short. CWD is a neurological disease in the TSE (transmissible spongiform encephalopathy) category. TSE diseases are progressive diseases that affect the brain and nervous system. They are not caused by a bacteria or virus and therein lies part of the problem why these diseases are hard to contain or eliminate once they're established. TSE diseases are caused by prions—which are, basically, deformed proteins. Prions can be passed from deer to deer and are incredibly resistant to external environmental conditions. Because of the hardness of prions, CWD, for the present, has shown itself to be 100 percent fatal for deer and other members of the deer family (the only group of animals it's known to affect.)

To date, 21 cases of CWD have been confirmed in Missouri. All of these have been in northeast Missouri. Eleven cases were in captive deer at facilities in Linn and Macon counties and 10 were in free-ranging deer found within two miles of the Macon County facility. A total of 3,666 deer were tested for CWD during and after the 2013 deer hunting seasons and all tests came back negative. This large-scale testing effort was made possible through the cooperation of many of the state's hunters, landowners, and taxidermists—proving once again that Missourians care about conserving forests, fish, and wildlife. CWD has not been found in southwest Missouri, but statewide vigilance is still needed. Anyone seeing sick deer should call a local conservation agent or office.

Missouri's deer hunting opportunities do not end with the close of the November firearms season (see accompanying table). For more information about deer and deer hunting opportunities in your area, contact your nearest Missouri Department of Conservation office or visit the website at mdc.mo.gov.

—Francis Skalicky, Media Specialist

Hunting Seasons Archery Deer and Turkey

September 15–November 14
November 26–January 15, 2015

Firearms Deer

Early Youth Portion
November 1–2

November Portion
November 15–25

Antlerless Portion *
November 26–December 7

Alternative Methods Portion
December 20–30

Late Youth Portion
January 3–4, 2015

*view open areas in the *2014 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information*

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.

Joplin Office in the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center

201 W. Riviera Drive, Suite B, Joplin, MO 64804 • mdc.mo.gov/node/292



The Joplin Conservation Office, located in the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, is your local connection to Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife. Stop by and purchase hunting and fishing permits, attend a nature program, go for a hike, enjoy a picnic, or access Shoal Creek. Within the 190 acres of Wildcat Park, you will find a diverse mix of wildlife habitats rich with flora and fauna. From I-44, take exit 6, and turn south on MO-86. Turn right on Riviera Drive to enter Wildcat Park.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
Closed all state holidays.
Audubon Center hours vary.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 417-629-3423 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

November Events

Introduction To Archery

November 8 • Saturday • 3–4:30 PM
Walter Woods Conservation Area (Joplin)
Registration required (families, ages 7 and up)
Learn the fundamental skills and safety of archery shooting. Discover the fun of this family activity and learn together outdoors. We will teach the basics including bow nomenclature, hand set, bow set, pre-draw, and proper stance to help you shoot more consistently and accurately. All equipment will be provided.

Tree Pruning Workshop

November 10 • Monday • 6:30–8:30 PM
Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center (Joplin)
Registration required (ages 10 and up)
Properly guiding a young tree with pruning will help it develop a desirable shape and improve long-term health. Older trees often only need light pruning to remove dead branches and poor structure. Learn the difference by attending one of the *Tree Pruning Workshops* (more listed below).

December Events

Short-eared Owl Hike

December 12 • Friday • 4:30–6 PM
Shawnee Trail Conservation Area (near Mindenmines)
Registration required (ages 7 and up)
It's winter in Missouri and short-eared owls may be seen flying low over native grasslands in search of mice, rabbits, and other small mammals. To discover more about these uncommon winter residents, join a naturalist for a short-eared owl hike. Bring the family and dress for the weather including proper footwear.

Area Tree Pruning Workshops

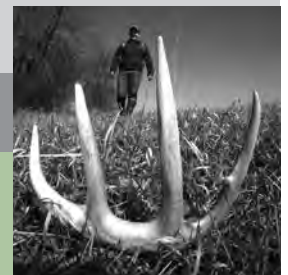
No registration required (ages 10 and up)

November 6 • Thursday • 6:30–8:30 PM
Cassville Council Chambers, 300 Main Street, enter through Chamber door (north side of building) in back (Cassville)

November 8 • Saturday • 9 AM–12 NOON
Missouri Community Forestry Council members will lead hands-on pruning in Garvin Park, 28th Street and South Virginia (Joplin)

November 15 • Saturday • 10 AM–12 NOON
Carthage Tree Board members will lead hands-on pruning at Kellogg Lake Park (Carthage)

November 18 • Tuesday • 6:30–8:30 PM
Stockton Family Clinic, 807 Owen Mill Road (Stockton)



Ask The Naturalist

Is It True That Female White-tailed Deer Can Have Antlers?

It is true female white-tailed deer (does) can experience antler growth on rare occasions. Antler growth occurs when the hormone testosterone is present in abnormally high levels and not regulated by the doe's body. While female white-tailed deer do not normally experience antler growth, it occurs regularly in females of another species of the deer family—the caribou.

Antlers are growths of bone generally found on male deer (bucks). Antlers form from pedicles which are first seen as buttons on young males, commonly referred to as button bucks. The antlers start as soft, delicate living tissue consisting of veins and arteries. This stage of growth is commonly referred to as being in velvet and continues through August or even September. Velvet antlers are vulnerable to damage and can be deformed or develop abnormally if injured. The size, shape, and number of points antlers form are dependent on several factors including age, genetics, and nutrition. When the blood supply is cutoff to the antlers due to the constricting blood vessels, growth ceases and the velvet dries. The velvet is then rubbed off exposing the antlers' bony material most people are familiar with seeing in the fall. The antlers are now ready for the breeding season (or rut) to spar with other males to establish dominance. After the breeding season, the antlers are shed from winter to early spring. Exactly when a deer will drop its antlers depends on stress levels after the rut, heredity, and nutrition. These sheds, or drops as they are commonly called, can provide families another great way to discover nature by hunting for shed antlers.

For more on Missouri's white-tailed deer, explore the Missouri Department of Conservation's website at mdc.mo.gov/node/984. Discover even more details on antler growth by reading the article coauthored by Department of Conservation deer biologists at the University of Missouri Extension's website at extension.missouri.edu and enter "antlers" in the search field.

— Kevin Badgley, Interpretive Center Manager

Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

4897 N. Farm Road 61, Ash Grove, MO 65604 • mdc.mo.gov/node/288



Deer Rifle Sight-In Days

November 1–14
Daily 8:30 AM–4:30 PM



*No registration required and
regular range usage fees apply*

Hours are extended and days added for deer hunters to have the opportunity to bring their favorite deer rifles to sight them in. Taking time to sight-in firearms helps ensure a quick, clean kill and reduces wounding loss. This also provides an opportunity for quality family time

and honing shooting skills. We will have a bore sighting system to loan you to save on your ammunition costs. If you have not been to the range, take a few minutes and review the range procedure video online at mdc.mo.gov/node/25379.

MO Hunting and Small Game Hunting Prospects A New Perspective

Fall and winter are a couple of my favorite seasons of the year, as are rabbit, squirrel, quail, and pheasant seasons. I am especially excited this year due to a new document on the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) website titled *2014 Small Game Hunting Prospects*. It is loaded with the latest information available to Missouri's hunters and blends the results of population trend surveys with information on species management and hunting tips for new and experienced hunters. You can view this new web page at mdc.mo.gov/node/28835. Included on this page are individual links to additional hunting prospect information listed by species of interest including dove, frog, pheasant, quail, rabbit, rail, snipe, squirrel, and woodcock. There is also a link on the web page to download the PDF file that contains the entire publication.

In addition, MDC now offers a free app for your Android and Apple mobile devices called "*MO Hunting*." The *MO Hunting* app can be downloaded from Google Play and iTunes stores at no cost. It enables users to purchase and view annual hunting, fishing, and trapping permits and associated details such as viewing permits purchased during the previous year. The app allows deer and turkey hunters to Telecheck their harvests within the application through an easy-to-use fillable form. *MO Hunting* enables hunters to view all deer and turkey which they have previously Telechecked and view associated details. In order to log into *MO Hunting*, you will need your Conservation Number. This 9-digit number can be found on the back of your Heritage Card, next to the bar code. This is different from the 16-digit number on the front of the card. The Conservation Number can also be found on any current or previous permit. Information about this app can be located at mdc.mo.gov/node/28397.

To learn about other free apps that MDC offers, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/15419.

—Michael Brooks, Outdoor Education Center Supervisor



To get to the Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center, take US Highway 160 west of Willard, turn south on Farm Road 61, and go 2.5 miles, facility on the west side of road. Facilities include an outdoor education center and archery, rifle, pistol, and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

September 14–April 14

Monday and Thursday: 9 AM–4:30 PM

Friday–Sunday: 12 NOON–4:30 PM

April 15–September 13

Monday: 9 AM–4:30 PM

Thursday: 9 AM–7:30 PM

Friday–Sunday: 12 NOON–4:30 PM

Closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and all state holidays. Hours are subject to change.

FACILITIES AND FEES:

Available for individual and group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range fee:
\$3 per booth per hour
- Trap/skeet range fee: \$3 per person
per round of 25 clay targets
- Shotgun patterning range:
\$3 per person per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour
- Group use fee: \$20 per hour plus
\$3 per round of 25 clay targets

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 417-742-4361 or email DaltonRange@mdc.mo.gov to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Holiday Closing

November 27 • Thanksgiving
December 25 • Christmas

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

4601 S. Nature Center Way, Springfield, MO 65804 • mdc.mo.gov/node/287



The Springfield Conservation Nature Center is located in southeast Springfield just west of US-65 off the James River Freeway (US-60). Indoors, enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through a variety of natural communities. Call to schedule a naturalist-led program for your organized group.

CURRENT HOURS:

November 1–February 28

Building: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM
Closed Sunday and Monday

Trails: Sunday–Saturday: 8 AM–6 PM

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 417-888-4237 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Building, area, and trails closed:

November 27 • Thanksgiving
December 25 • Christmas
January 1 • New Year's Day

Temporary Exhibit

November • Nature Photography
by Donna Groven

November Events

Waterfowl And Wetland Conservation

November 6 • Thursday • 6–7 PM

No registration required

The success of Missouri's waterfowl and wetland habitats is due to skillful execution of well-designed plans, public and private partnerships, strong citizen support, and dedicated funding. A new book, *Waterfowl Hunting and Wetland Conservation in Missouri—A Model of Collaboration*, chronicles this success. Learn more about these conservation stories through a 15-minute presentation and meet one of the authors, David Graber, during this special book signing. The authors, many of them former waterfowl biologists and wetland managers, donated their services to produce the book. Sponsors—anchored by Bass Pro Shops, Missouri Department of Conservation, Ducks Unlimited, Conservation Federation of Missouri, Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, and private citizens—covered production costs. All net proceeds from book sales will be dedicated to wetland and waterfowl conservation. Federal duck stamps will also be available for purchase.

Hiking Club

November 8 • Saturday • 8:15 AM–2 PM

Registration begins November 1 (ages 18–adult)

Trek the trails of Little Sac Woods Conservation Area with Volunteer Naturalist Doug Gilliam. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring a sack lunch and water and wear comfortable hiking shoes. **Hike is four miles and rated moderate in difficulty**

Nature Through An Artist's Eyes

November 8 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM

Grades kindergarten to second (ages 5–7)

November 8 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

Grades third to fifth (ages 8–12)

Registration begins November 1

Inspire-Imagine-Create. Join art instructor Janel Bagby in an awakening of the senses, seeing nature through an artist's eyes. Discover the power of nature in a flower, shell, or rock. Paint in the style of Georgia O'Keefe to create your own masterpiece.

Badge Bonanza

November 11 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration begins November 1 (ages 5–adult)

Attention all scouting and youth organizations! You won't want to miss this program on birds that will help you earn nature badges. We'll play some games and do fun activities that will help you learn about bird migration and identification. Program is also open to the public.

Story Time With Ms. Ladybug

November 12 • Wednesday • 11–11:30 AM

No registration required (ages 2–6)

Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2–6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

For Adults Only

Dutch Oven Cooking 101

November 15 • Saturday • 9 AM–12 NOON

Registration begins November 1 (ages 18–adult)

Learn the basics of Dutch oven cooking to amaze your family and friends with delicious, easy-to-cook meals. After a brief session on basics, the rest of the workshop will involve hands-on learning and tasting.

Small Game Hunting

November 18 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration begins November 1 (ages 8–adult)

Missourians have access to some of the best small game hunting opportunities in the nation for rabbit, squirrel, quail, and other game. Learn more about when, where, and how to hunt small game in Missouri from Outdoor Skills Specialist Greg Collier and Small Game Coordinator Scott Sudkamp.

Conservation Kids' Club

Just Like Lewis And Clark

Journaling And Uses Of The Bison

November 25 • Tuesday • 6:30–7:45 PM

Registration begins November 1 (ages 7–12)

Join us as we celebrate the incredible journey of Lewis & Clark. Learn about the importance of the bison to the survival of the Plains Indian tribes and to the success of the expedition. Try your hand at journaling about a "new" discovery and make a journal to take home with you. Please, no younger siblings and only one adult per group of kids.

Ozark Whittlers & Woodcarvers

November 29 • Saturday • 10 AM–4 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Stop by to see members of the Ozark Whittlers & Woodcarvers transform wood into treasures.

November **Little Acorns** programs are listed on page 5.

Project FeederWatch

November 11 and 12 • Tuesday and Wednesday • 9 AM–3 PM

November 25 and 26 • Tuesday and Wednesday • 9 AM–3 PM

Drop by and help volunteer naturalists count birds in our Wildlife Viewing Area. The nature center participates every November–March in this winter-long survey of birds sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. Learn how you can participate too!



Springfield Conservation Nature Center

4601 S. Nature Center Way, Springfield, MO 65804 • mdc.mo.gov/node/287

December Events

Nature And The Arts

An Evening With Tim Ernst

December 5 • Friday • 5–6 PM OR 7–8 PM

Registration begins November 15 (ages 12–adult)

Before or after taking a stroll outdoors, enjoy the scenic photography of nationally known nature photographer Tim Ernst as he returns to share images set to music from his latest publication—*Arkansas Nightscapes*. See stunning images that will leave you inspired to explore the natural beauty of the Buffalo National River area, the Ozarks, and areas beyond. Tim will be available for book signing from 6–7pm and 8–9pm. For more information visit Tim's website at <TimErnst.com>.

Evening Stroll

December 5 • Friday • 6–9 PM

No registration required (all ages)

You've seen the fancy flashing light displays all over town—now come out for a quieter, old-fashioned holiday evening. Enjoy a crackling fire, sip hot chocolate, and browse through the gift shop when you come indoors to get warm. The trails will be open and patrolled, so bring a flashlight and a walking partner because you're on your own.

Conservation TEEN Club Shooting 22s

December 6 • Saturday • 9 AM–12 NOON

Registration begins December 2 (ages 12–17)

Learn how to shoot 22-caliber rifles at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range at the Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. After classroom discussion, it is out to the range to practice and test your skills. So whether you're a beginner or an expert shot, meet at the range and enjoy the fun! Refreshments will be provided.

Conservation Kids' Club Holiday Crafts For Kids

December 9 • Tuesday • 6–8 PM

Registration begins December 2 (ages 7–12)

Hey, kids! Here's your chance to make some presents out of natural and recycled items just in time for the holidays. Drop by anytime and plan to spend at least an hour. Bring an empty toilet paper tube, a mismatched sock, a sack to carry your crafts, and lots of creativity. All other items will be provided. Please, no younger siblings and only one adult per group of kids.

Story Time With Ms. Ladybug

December 10 • Wednesday • 11–11:30 AM

No registration required (ages 2–6)

Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2–6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

Natural Holiday Crafts

December 13 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Stop by anytime to make some simple holiday ornaments from natural materials. We'll supply the materials, kids bring the creativity, and parents provide the guidance.

Conservation TEEN Club Year-End Review

December 18 • Thursday • 7–8:30 PM

Registration begins December 2 (ages 12–17)

Join us as we celebrate the close of another successful year of TEEN Club. After viewing photos of the year's outings, we'll enjoy cake and vote on possible TEEN Club outings for 2015. Prospective and current members ages 12–17 and their families are welcome to attend.

Hiking Club

December 20 • Saturday • 8:15 AM–2 PM

Registration begins December 2 (ages 12–adult)

Volunteer Naturalist Mike Mihalik will lead a hike at Pleasant Hope Conservation Area. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring a sack lunch and water and wear comfortable hiking shoes. **Hike is four miles and rated moderate in difficulty.**

Wildlife In Winter

December 23 • Tuesday • 1–2 PM

No registration required (ages 7–adult)

Not all mammals hibernate and every insect doesn't die during the cold winter months. Take some time away from your holiday shopping to learn about the wondrous ways in which animals survive this frigid season.

Winter Bird Walk

December 26 • Friday • 11 AM–12 NOON

No registration required (ages 7–adult)

Dress warmly and join us for a winter bird walk. Bring binoculars and a bird field guide if you have them.

Animal Bingo

December 26 • Friday • 1–2 PM

December 30 • Tuesday • 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Put your nature knowledge to task as you and your family participate in *Animal Bingo*. Learn new facts and win prizes.

Toddler Tales

December 31 • Wednesday • 11–11:45 AM

No registration required (ages 2–6)

Bring your tots to hear a special tale about nature and to complete a craft project.

Please limit to one per month.

Little Acorns

Programs are 45 minutes in length.

November Events

Registration begins November 1 (ages 3–6)

Wonderful Whitetails

November 14 • Friday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

We all know Bambi but what do you know about real deer? Where do they live? What do they eat? Come in for some antler-related antics and learn some of the wonders of the whitetails.

Turkey Talk

November 21 • Friday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

November 22 • Saturday • 11 AM

Where do wild turkeys live and what do they eat? Which turkeys have beards? What sounds do they make? We'll discover the answers to these questions and more. Gobble! Gobble!

Raccoon Ramblings

November 25 • Tuesday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

Raccoons are clever nighttime animals. Bring your favorite Big Person and learn more about these critters!

December Events

Wildlife In Winter

December 5 • Friday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

December 6 • Saturday • 11 AM

Registration begins November 15 (ages 3–6)

What happens to wild animals in winter? Some hibernate, of course, but we'll learn other special "tricks" animals use to survive these frigid months.

Calling All Owls

December 11 • Thursday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

Registration begins December 2 (ages 3–6)

Who-o-o-o hoots when it gets dark? Who-o-o-o goes out for food at night? Is it a wise old owl? Bring your children during daylight hours to learn about owls.

Cobweb Christmas

December 19 • Friday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

December 20 • Saturday • 11 AM

Registration begins December 2 (ages 3–6)

Listen to the holiday story, *The Cobweb Christmas*, by Shirley Climo and make your own beautiful craft to take home.

Snakes Of Missouri

January 2 • Friday • 1–2 PM

No registration required (ages 5–adult)

Sometimes they startle us, but snakes always fascinate us. Learn about this often misunderstood reptile, see snakes up close, and even touch one!

Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery and Conservation Center

483 Hatchery Road, Branson, MO 65616 • mdc.mo.gov/node/290



The Fish Hatchery and Conservation Center is located on 221 acres in Branson off Highway 165 next to Table Rock Dam. Outdoors, visitors will experience an active fish hatchery with 700,000 rainbow and brown trout in 30 pools with opportunities to feed the fish. Indoors, enjoy a 3,500 gallon aquarium and hands-on nature exhibits and purchase hunting and fishing permits. The area also features four hiking trails, a picnic area, a boat ramp, and access to Lake Taneycomo.

FACILITY HOURS:

Memorial Day–Labor Day

Sunday–Saturday: 9 AM–6 PM

Remainder of Year

Sunday–Saturday: 9 AM–5 PM

AREA AND TRAIL HOURS:

4 AM–10 PM

The area is open to fishing 24 hours daily, but special permits and regulations do apply. Check the current fishing regulations or call for details.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 417-334-4865, Ext. 0, to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

FISHING LAKE TANEYCOMO:

Before fishing on Lake Taneycomo, become familiar with the regulations and restrictions. Come by for a free brochure of the entire lake including fishing accesses. For specific details about trout fishing here and across the state, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/5603.

November and December Events

Bird Feeder Workshop

November 15 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM

Registration required (families)

This is our annual workshop for families to build their own wooden bird feeder. Each family will be able to build one hopper-style bird feeder to take home. In addition to putting together the pre-cut and pre-drilled feeder, you will learn about the best types of seed to put into the feeder to maximize your winter bird watching. Bring a hammer.

Nature Ornaments

December 13 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM

Registration required (families, age 5 and up)

Here is your chance to make unique ornaments for windows, holiday trees, or decorations. Everyone will get to put a few handcrafted fishing lures into clear globes to make one-of-a-kind ornaments. We will also be making art from tree cookies and creating animal tracks from plaster of paris.

Common Questions about Feeding Backyard Birds

One of the most popular ways to enjoy birds is to set up a bird feeder. This provides an easy way to observe the birds and learn to identify them. Each year many people contact our offices to ask important questions about bird feeding. Here are the answers.

What kind of birdseed works best to attract birds to my feeder?

While some birds may prefer a mixture of seeds, the best overall seed for feeding birds during winter is black oil sunflower. This seed tends to attract more birds than any other. The standard bird mix has a combination of many seeds, which is good for the birds, but not the most preferred. When choosing a seed mix make sure it includes a high portion of sunflower seeds. Niger thistle seeds attract finches but remember that thistle is usually more expensive and requires a special thistle feeder.

If I run out of birdseed, will I endanger the birds?

Absolutely not! Remember that your bird feeders primary role is to attract birds for your viewing pleasure. The birdseed provides a supplement to their normal diet. If you were to stop feeding birds in the middle of the winter, the birds would simply go elsewhere in nature to find the food that they would normally eat. The feeder simply gives them a reason to be closer for you to view them.

Should I remove old seeds from below the feeder?

Yes. Old seed or spent seed shells can accumulate quickly and cause several harmful diseases for birds. It is always a good idea to periodically rake old seed shells away from the area around the feeders. Some landowners take the spent shells and compost them and use that soil in their gardens.

Will my bird feeder attract other animals?

Yes. You will need to be aware of animals that can damage feeders. Some people can tolerate a squirrel or two, but when there are large numbers of squirrels at one feeder the chance for them to damage the feeder increases. You definitely do not want larger animals like raccoons at your feeder. While more active at night, you might be pleasantly surprised to see flying squirrels going to your feeder after dark. There are a number of ways to discourage mammals from your feeder including switching to safflower seeds or putting crushed hot peppers in the seeds. The birds cannot taste the hot pepper mix but mammals can. For more information about repelling squirrels from bird feeders, go to extension.missouri.edu/p/g9455.

Visit one of the Conservation Department offices for a free poster entitled *Feeding Backyard Birds*. In addition to bird identification, it recommends the best types of birdseed as well as landscaping choices. You can also sign up for the *Bird Feeder Workshop* at the Fish Hatchery (listed above). Registration is required.

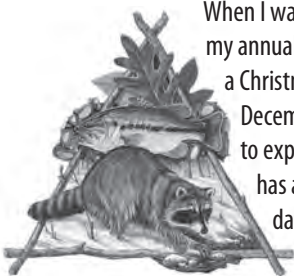
We hope you enjoy discovering nature in your backyard by putting up bird feeders. It is a popular activity and one that brings nature close up for everyone to see.

—John Miller, Interpretive Center Manager

Southwest Regional Office

2630 N. Mayfair Avenue, Springfield, MO 65803 • mdc.mo.gov/node/257

The Gift Of Time In The Outdoors



When I was younger (many, many years ago), my parents would often purchase my annual Resident Small Game Hunting and Fishing Permit and give it to me as a Christmas gift. Back then, most permits were valid from January 1 through December 31 which made them great holiday gifts as my current permit was set to expire on New Year's Eve. Since then, the Missouri Department of Conservation has adjusted the calendar on permits with March 1 now being the effective date for permits. Well, sort of.

I'm happy to say a permit is STILL a great holiday gift. Did you know if you purchase an annual Missouri Small Game Hunting and/or Fishing Permit on or after December 1, they are good from the date of purchase through the following permit year which now ends on the last day of February? So in other words, recipients can get up to 15 months of outdoor fun for only the price of 12 months.

If you're wishing family members or friends living out-of-state would come to Missouri more often to see you, perhaps you should consider giving a Nonresident Small Game Hunting Permit (\$80) or a Nonresident Fishing Permit (\$42) which is great encouragement for them to visit more often. If you are looking for the ultimate hunting and fishing gift, consider a Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit. This entitles the holder to the privileges associated with a Resident Small Game Hunting and Fishing Permit, Trout Permit, Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, and Conservation Order Permit for life. The price varies from \$70 to \$800, depending on the recipient's age. If your loved one just likes to hunt, a Resident Lifetime Small Game Hunting Permit may be the way to go. Or if they just want to fish, a Resident Lifetime Fishing Permit is also available. The cost on these permits ranges from \$35 to \$400 depending on recipient's age.



You can purchase annual permits from vendors statewide or online at mdc.mo.gov/node/9258. Lifetime permits are available only through our Central Office in Jefferson City. You can begin that process by going online to mdc.mo.gov/8849 or by calling 573-522-4115, ext. 3574. And remember to get your own permit too so you can spend time outdoors with them. Or even better, let someone know you would enjoy the same gift.

—Warren Rose, Outreach and Education Regional Supervisor



The Southwest Regional Office is conveniently located just west of the intersection of US-65 and Kearney in Springfield. The public may obtain information on land management, nuisance wildlife, educational opportunities, river and pond management, and more, as well as purchase hunting and fishing permits and obtain area brochures for Conservation Department areas.

HOURS: Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
Closed all state holidays

PHONE: 417-895-6880

Winter Catch-and-Release Trout Fishing

Catch-and-release fishing only is available from November 14, 2014, through February 9, 2015, at Bennett Spring, Montauk, and Roaring River State Parks. Fishing times are from 8 AM to 4 PM on

Friday through Monday. A fishing permit, unless exempt, and a trout permit are required. Only flies may be used.



Hunter Education Sessions

Classroom Sessions

Location

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

Date/Time

November 1 • Saturday • 8 AM–12 NOON

December 13 • Saturday • 8 AM–12 NOON

Skills Sessions

Location

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

Date/Time

November 1 • Saturday • 1–5 PM

December 13 • Saturday • 1–5 PM

Andy Dalton Shooting Range

November 8 • Saturday • 8 AM–12 NOON

December 6 • Saturday • 8 AM–12 NOON

Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center ...

November 4 • Wednesday • 6–10 PM

November 12 • Wednesday • 6–10 PM

December 10 • Tuesday • 6–10 PM

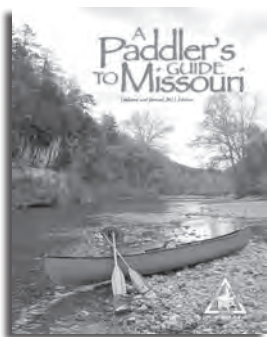
Visit mdc.mo.gov/node/3722 to register for these sessions and to check for session changes and/or additions.

Give the gift of nature!



\$7

This calendar will keep you in touch with the year's seasonal changes. Daily notes keep you posted on what's blooming or nesting and other natural phenomena.



\$8

Discover Missouri's rivers and streams. This publication features 58 rivers and streams to canoe and kayak.

Other great gifts . . .

\$12

More than 100 delicious, kitchen-tested recipes highlight Missouri's game, fish, nuts, fruits, and mushrooms.



20% off in November and December
Heritage card discount does not apply



Male Northern Cardinal

Notecards are 4 1/2 by 6 inches and blank on the inside. Each set includes 12 cards

\$6.40
per set

and envelopes.



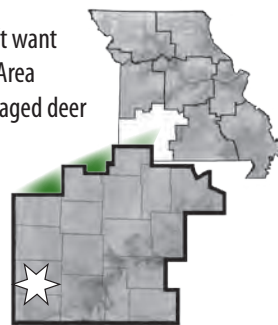
Eastern bluebird

Available at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center and Southwest Regional Office

Conservation Showcase:

Bicentennial Conservation Area

If you are looking for a place to enjoy Missouri's outdoors, but don't want to worry about hunting seasons, check out Bicentennial Conservation Area (CA) in Neosho. Since this area is not open to hunting except for a managed deer hunt (held this year November 1–14), this makes the area a perfect spot for individuals and families to enjoy spending time outdoors hiking, bicycling, camping, and horseback riding. Bird watching enthusiasts will see abundant numbers of woodland species and the area offers various wildlife viewing opportunities including deer, turkey, and squirrels.



Bicentennial CA encompasses 721 acres, approximately 90 percent of which are forested. Take along a copy of *Trees of Missouri Field Guide* available for purchase from the Conservation Department to help identify the many species of trees including oak, hackberry, elm, black cherry, black walnut, and ash.

A pavilion with five picnic tables is available to enjoy a leisurely lunch or snack before heading out along the nearly six miles of trails on the area. Take the opportunity to sit under the large white oak tree while enjoying the soothing sounds of White Oak Spring bubbling to the surface and then take in the view from the scenic overlook a little farther down the trail. You can also see foundations, fruit trees, open fields, and other remnants of many of the hundreds of small farms purchased by the federal government as part of what was once the old World War II Camp Crowder Army Base.

LOCATION: Bicentennial CA is located within the city limits of Neosho at 3001 Doniphan Drive. From the junction of Highways Business 49 and US 60, go east 2.2 miles to Oak Ridge Extension, south on Oak Ridge to Burr Crossing Road, .4 miles to the KCS Railroad crossing, cross the tracks on Landis Road, .3 miles to Doniphan Drive, then .4 miles to the Mort Walker Trail parking lot.

HISTORY: Bicentennial CA was part of the 60,000-acre Camp Crowder Army Base that was acquired by the Army in the summer of 1941. This area was selected for the base because of its proximity to water, railroads, and highways. Camp Crowder remained an Army base until it was decommissioned in 1957. At that time, the Department of Defense began selling most of the property back to private individuals. Portions of the camp were eventually developed into an industrial complex, Rocketdyne Saturn 5 missile assembly plant and test site, Crowder College, Neosho School Farm, and a Missouri National Guard Camp. The 721-acre Bicentennial Park was deeded to the City of Neosho in 1976.

Much of Bicentennial CA was cleared and maintained as pasture and farmland prior to World War II. The Mort Walker multi-use trail is named after the famous creator of the Beetle Bailey comic strip who was stationed at Fort Crowder. On March 25, 1997, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) acquired title and possession of Bicentennial Park which was donated from the city of Neosho.

HUNTING AND FISHING: Hunting is not allowed except for deer hunting by managed hunt permit only. Hunters must apply for a permit through the managed hunt system. Application information is available at most MDC offices. There are no fishing opportunities on this area.

CAMPING AND TRAILS: Primitive camping is allowed. Groups of ten or more campers need a Special Use Permit from the District Forester. Contact the Neosho Office at 417-451-4158 to obtain this permit. There are no designated campsites on this area.

There are over six miles of multi-use trails to utilize for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding. There is also an asphalt trail that starts adjacent to the picnic pavilion which is ADA compliant for .5 miles. A spur off of that trail leads to an observation deck that may be used for outdoor photography or nature study. Trail maps are located at each designated parking area or online. For more information on Bicentennial CA, visit MDC's website at <mdc.mo.gov/a9731>.

—Terry Cook, Forestry Resource Technician